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(Australian Petty Patent)

(54) Title
A HANGER CLIP

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(57) Claim

1. A clothes hanger with a support means and a hanger hook and having at least two spaced apart clips mounted to the support means for engaging with garments to be hung on the hanger;

each said clip having a first member pivotally connected at a pivot point to a second member which second member is integral with the support means;

said hook, said support means and said second members being extended in a first plane presenting a substantially flat surface oppositely to the first member;

said first and second members being formed with respective jaw portions, said jaw portions being biased to a closed position to hold a garment therebetween;

the first member being an elongate lever arm with a bend therein adjacent the pivot point, the first member at one side of said bend leading into the jaw portion;

said first member having an essentially straight portion between said bend and its end opposite to the jaw portion;

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said straight portion having a reduced prominence orthogonally of the hanger, the bend angling it towards said first plane; and

said bend and said reduced prominence of said straight portion of said first member, together with said substantially flat backed second member, acting so as to reduce the tendency of adjoining hangers to be tilted by contact therebetween and the accidental opening of the jaw portions.

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Invention Title : "A HANGER CLIP"

Details of Associated Provisional Applications -
Numbers :

The following statement is a full description of the invention including the best method of performing it known to me.

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to improvements in and relating to clothes hangers and particularly to
5 clips provided for such hangers.

Various proposals have been made in the past for clothes hangers which clip to the item of clothing rather than merely having the item of clothing suspended from the hanger.

10 Such clip-type hangers have included types where the item of clothing is merely slipped past a biased projection where it is then held. A problem with such types of hanger clips is that when a customer wants to remove the item of clothing from the clip, the customer
15 can become confused as to how this is to be achieved. There is therefore a tendency for customers to try and forcibly remove the item of clothing. This can frequently result in the item of clothing becoming torn.

The other main type of hanger clip at present is
20 one where the customer merely has to press the clip to open a pair of jaws which allows the release of the item of clothing. A problem with such clips is in achieving a readily manufactured clip which has the hinged clip part biased in some manner to achieve the necessary
25 closing of the jaws about the item of clothing until release is required. Another problem with such clips is in their accidental opening when impacted by adjacent hangers.

Objects of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a clip for a hanger of the immediately above mentioned type which can avoid or at least obviate
 5 problems previously encountered or which at least will provide the public with a useful choice.

Further object of this invention will become apparent from the following description.

Summary of the Invention

10 According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a clothes hanger with a support means and a hanger hook and having at least two spaced apart clips mounted to the support means for engaging with garments to be hung on the hanger:

15 each said clip having a first member pivotally connected at a pivot point to a second member which second member is integral with the support means;

said hook, said support means and said second members being extended in a first plane presenting a
 20 substantially flat surface oppositely to the first member;

said first and second members being formed with respective jaw portions, said jaw portions being biassed to a closed position to hold a garment
 25 therebetween;

the first member being an elongate lever arm with a bend therein adjacent the pivot point, the first member at one side of said bend leading into the jaw portion;

30 said first member having an essentially straight portion between said bend and its end opposite to the jaw portion;

said straight portion having a reduced prominence orthogonally of the hanger, the bend angling
 35 it towards said first plane; and



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Further aspects of this invention which should be
5 considered in all its novel aspects will become apparent
from the following description given by way of example
of possible embodiments thereof.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 Figure 1: Shows a front view of a .anger provided with

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two clips according to one possible embodiment of the invention;

5 Figure 2: Shows a view from above of the hanger of Figure 1;

Figure 3: Shows a view in the direction of arrow A of the hanger of Figure 1;

Figure 4: Shows a rear exploded perspective view of one of the clips of the preceding figures;

10 Figure 5: Shows a front exploded view of one of the clips of the preceding figures.

Brief Description of Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

15 Referring to the accompanying drawings, a hanger is referenced generally by arrow 1. This is suitably but not necessarily a plastics moulding. The hanger 1 is shown provided with a pair of clips 2 one at each end of a hanger bar 3. In the embodiment shown the hanger 1
20 has a hook for extending via a neck portion 5 into the hanger bar 3 and with an aperture 6 provided to accommodate a size indicator tab.

Each clip of the embodiment shown in the drawings includes a rear part 7 which is shown integrally moulded
25 or formed with the hanger bar 3. A second, front, part 9 is pivotally connectable with the rear part 7 as will now be described.

5 The rear part 7 is shown provided with a pair of spaced apart upstands 8 each having a recess 14 which can accommodate a respective pin or projection 15 provided on the front part 9 so that the front part 9 can pivot relative to the rear part 7. A groove or the like 12 is shown provided for each upstand 8 so as to facilitate the entry of the respective projections 15 into the recesses 14.

10

15 A spring 11 is shown providing the bias which will normally maintain the jaw portion 16 of the front member 9 in its closed position relative to the jaw portion 24 of the rear part 7. The jaw portions 16 and 24 on their opposing surfaces are each shown provided with transverse gripping members 21 to grip the clothes introduced therebetween. The lower edges 22 of the gripping members 21 are shown provided with an upward chamfer to assist the introduction of the clothing between the jaw members 16 and 24.

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The spring 11 is shown accommodated between a projection 19 provided on an inner upper face of the part 9 and a recess 13 extending into the rear part 7 so as to form, see Figure 4, a depression 13A at the rear of the member 7. Reinforcing ribs 23 are also shown provided for the rear of the member 7.

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The upper surface of the part 9 is shown having the jaw portion 16 at its lower end extending to a change in surface angle at area 18 leading into the



upper part 17. When assembled the upper edge 9A of the front part 9 may be slightly shortened to be off-set relative to the upper edge of the rear part 7 which may lessen the chance of accidental opening of the clip 2 by reducing the area of the upper portion 17 and not having it protruding beyond the upper edge of part 7. More importantly however the change in angle of the front part 9 about its pivotal region provides a flattened area 18 and a less prominent upper area 17 acting so as to reduce the tendency for accidental opening of the clip 2. This could particularly happen with contact being made with, and pressure being applied by, adjacent hangers on a rack. A further advantage of the flattening of the upper portion 17 is to reduce the width taken up by each hanger and so as to increase the number of hangers able to be hung in a given width on a rack.

The assembly of the clips 2 utilising the embodiment as shown is made straightforward with the spring 11 being positioned between the recess 13 and the projection 19 and the projections 15 being then readily insertable into the respective recesses 14 assisted by the lead-in grooves 12.

While in the embodiment shown the clips 2 and in particular the rear part 7, are shown as integral with the hanger bar 3, it is to be appreciated that the clips 2 could be provided as entirely discrete members which

may for example be slid onto or otherwise associated with a hanger bar 2.

Where in the foregoing description reference has been made to specific components or integers of the invention having known equivalents then such equivalents are herein incorporated as if individually set forth.

Although this invention has been described by way of example and with reference to possible embodiments thereof it is to be understood that modifications or improvements may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A clothes hanger with a support means and a hanger hook and having at least two spaced apart clips mounted to the support means for engaging with garments
5 to be hung on the hanger;

each said clip having a first member pivotally connected at a pivot point to a second member which second member is integral with the support means;

- said hook, said support means and said second
10 members being extended in a first plane presenting a substantially flat surface oppositely to the first member;

- said first and second members being formed with respective jaw portions, said jaw portions being
15 biased to a closed position to hold a garment therebetween;

- the first member being an elongate lever arm with a bend therein adjacent the pivot point, the first member at one side of said bend leading into the jaw
20 portion;

said first member having an essentially straight portion between said bend and its end opposite to the jaw portion;

- said straight portion having a reduced
25 prominence orthogonally of the hanger, the bend angling it towards said first plane; and

- said bend and said reduced prominence of said straight portion of said first member, together with said substantially flat backed second member, acting so
30 as to reduce the tendency of adjoining hangers to be tilted by contact therebetween and the accidental opening of the jaw portions.

2. A clothes hanger clip as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said upper portion of said first member has an upper edge off-set, so as to be lower, in use, than an upper edge of the upper portion of the second member.

5 DATED this Twenty-eighth day of September 1994.

BRENDAN JON LINDSAY

By his Patent Attorneys

GRANT ADAMS & COMPANY



ABSTRACT

A CLIP FOR A CLOTHES HANGER

5 A clip for a clothes hanger (see Figure 5) is shown
provided at the end of a hanger bar (3). The clip has a
front part (9) pivotally connected with a rear part (7)
with a spring (11) biasing the front part (9) into a
closed position. A flattened area (18) provided for the
front part (9) leads into a less prominent upper area
10 (17), acting so as to reduce the tendency for accidental
opening of the clip.

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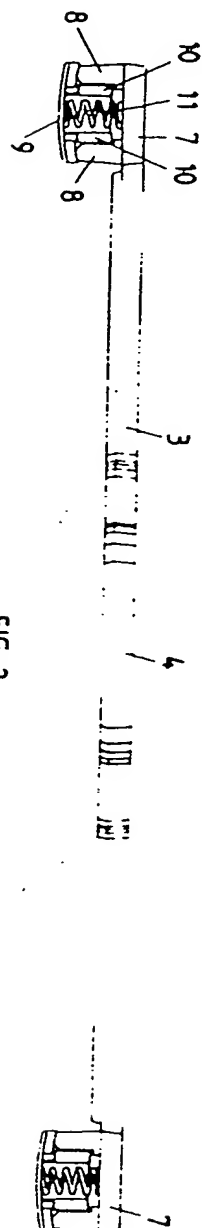


FIG 2

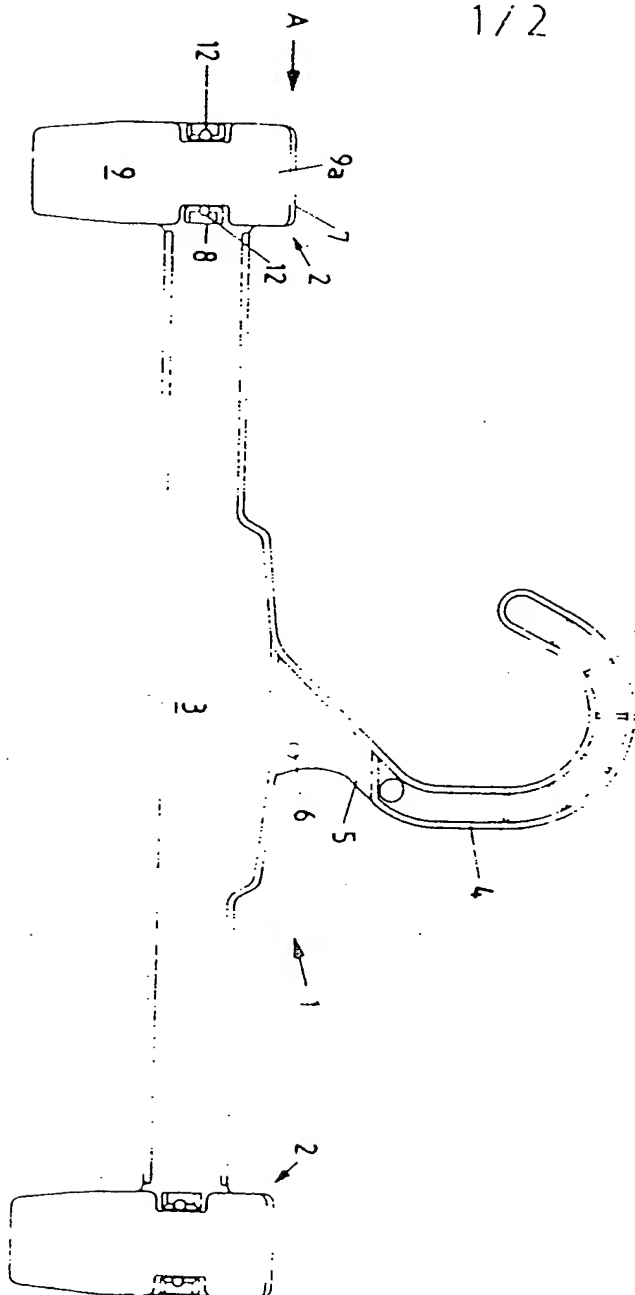


FIG 1

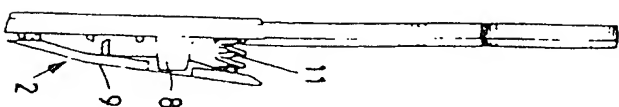


FIG 3

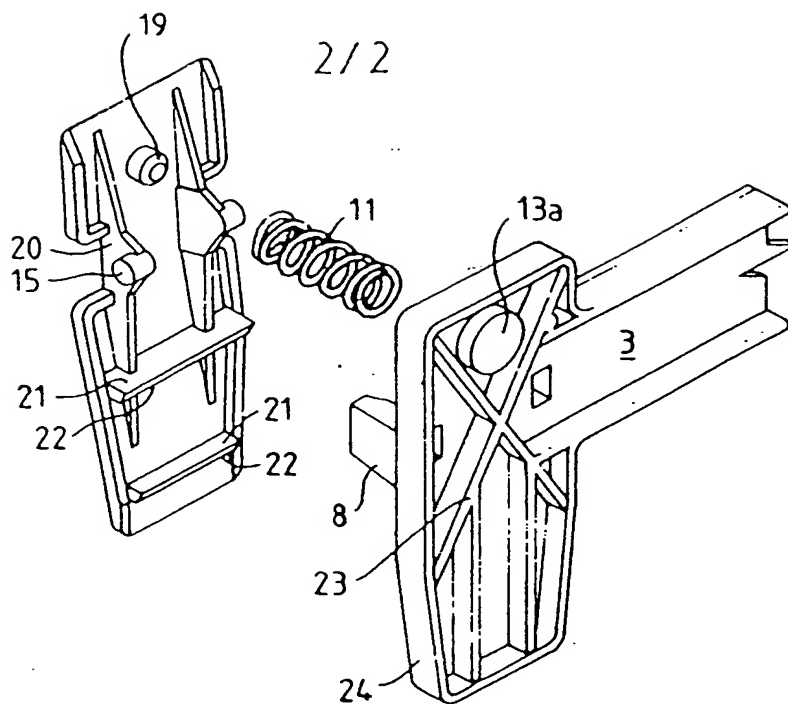


FIG 4

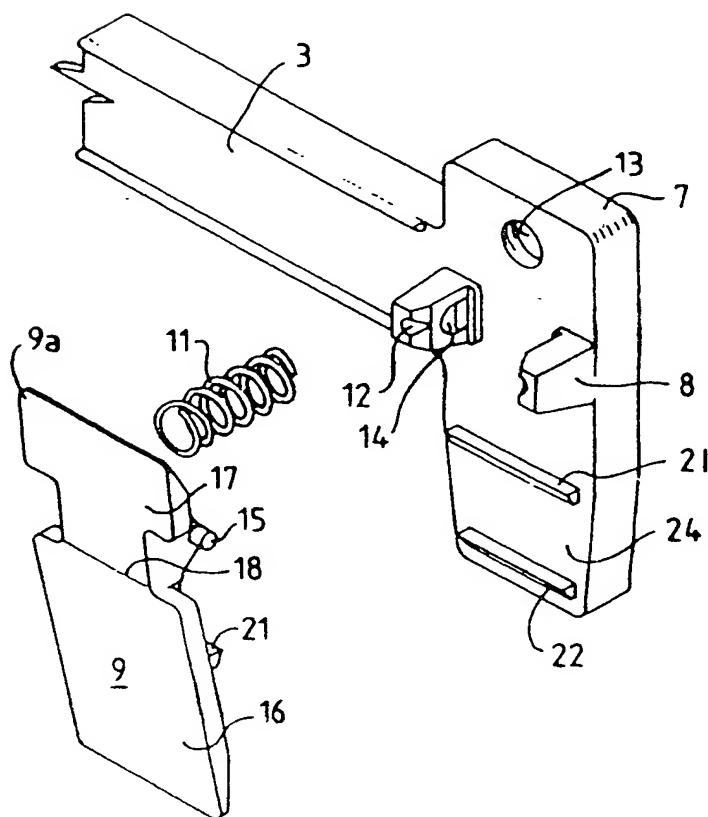


FIG 5

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PATENT REQUEST: PETTY PATENT

I, BRENDAN JON LINDSAY, being the person identified below as the Applicant, request the grant of a patent to the person identified below as the Nominated Person, for an invention described in the accompanying petty complete specification

Full application details follow.

- (71) Applicant: BRENDAN JON LINDSAY
Address: 9 Newhaven Street, Ellerslie, Auckland, New Zealand
- (70) Nominated Person: as above
Address: as above
- (54) Invention Title: "A HANGER CLIP"
- (72) Name of actual inventor: BRENDAN JON LINDAY
- (74) Address for service in Australia: c/- GRANT ADAMS & COMPANY, 9th Floor, National Mutual Centre, 144 Edward Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000, Australia. (Attorney Code: AD)

ASSOCIATED PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S) DETAILS:

- (60) Application number(s):
Date(s):

BASIC CONVENTION APPLICATION(S) DETAILS:

- (31) Application No. 238093
(33) Country & Country Code: New Zealand (NZ)
(32) Date of Application: 9 May 1991

Drawing number recommended to accompany the Abstract: FIG. 5.

DATED this second day of March 1993.

BRENDAN JON LINDSAY,
by his Patent Attorneys,
GRANT ADAMS & COMPANY,

Dennis E. Barr.

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NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

I, BRENDAN JON LINDSAY, of 9 Newhaven Street, Ellerslie, Auckland, New Zealand, being the Applicant in respect of Application No. 15254/92 state the following:-

PART I

1. The person nominated for the grant of the patent is the actual inventor.

PART II

2. The person nominated for the grant of the Patent is the Applicant of the basic application listed on the Patent Request form.

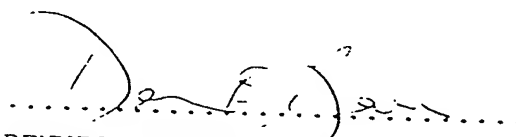
PART III

3. The basic application listed on the Patent Request form is the first application made in a Convention country in respect of the invention.

DATE: 7 December 1993

BRENDAN JON LINDSAY

BY


DENNIS E BARR

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